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KETTERING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report by J. T. Murphy, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

75, London Road,
Kettering.

October, 1941.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my annual report on the health of the Kettering Rural District for 1940.

As instructed in Ministry of Health circular 2067 the report is abridged and confined to essential matters only. A full report will be made covering the war period from the beginning of 1939 to the end of the last complete year. In spite of the many extra duties imposed on the staff by war conditions I am pleased to report that the health and sanitary conditions of the District have maintained peace time standards.

Dr. Thomas O. Garland, your former Medical Officer of Health resigned during the year and I commenced duty on December 1st.

I wish to thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their support and help. I also wish to express my appreciation to the Council staff for the kind help I received on taking up the appointment.

I am,
Your obedient servant,

J. T. MURPHY.
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A. Statistics.

Area (acres)	61,608
Population (Registrar-General's estimate).	11,260
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1940 according to Rate Books).	3,350
Rateable Value	£54,434
Sum represented by Penny Rate... ...	£220

Vital Statistics.

LIVE BIRTHS.	Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate ...	160	91	69
Illegitimate ...	9	5	4
Totals.	169	96	73

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 15.00

STILL BIRTHS.	Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate ...	8	4	4
Illegitimate ...	-	-	-
Totals.	8	4	4

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 45.19

DEATHS.	Total.	Males.	Females.
	140	83	57

Death-rate per 1,000 estimated population. Crude rate 12.43
Adjusted rate 11.55

Deaths from Puerperal causes	1.
Deaths from Puerperal sepsis	Nil.
Deaths from other Puerperal causes.. ...	1.

Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)	5.65
Death-rate of infants under 1 year of age.	2 Males, 1 Female.
Death-rate of infants per 1,000 live births.	17.75
Death-rate from measles (all ages).	Nil.
Death-rate from whooping cough (all ages).	Nil.
Death-rate from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil.

Death-rate England and Wales per 1,000 population.	14.3
Live birth-rate per 1,000 population.	14.6

The death-rate and live birth rate for the Rural District compares favourably with the rest of the country.

Deaths due to cancer	21
Deaths due to heart and circulatory causes.	38
Deaths due to suicide	1

SECTION B. General Provision of Health Services.

The general provision of health services is similar to 1939.

SECTION C & E. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area and Inspection of Food.

Report by S. Wallis, A.R.San.I.,
Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

Water Supply. There has been no shortage of water during the year. The Corby Water Company has laid a main from their Eye Brook Reservoir which passes close to Geddington, Little Oakley and Stanion.

Sewerage. No new works of sewerage have been carried out. The Village Septic tanks were cleaned out.

Scavenging. Hard refuse was collected in 12 villages, and night soil in 5 villages. Tins are being flattened out for salvage, and waste paper is periodically collected from several villages.

Sanitary Inspections.

New water closets connected.....	4
Drains cleared.....	19
Accumulations removed.....	7
Wells and pumps repaired.....	6
Roofs repaired.....	21
Animals improperly kept.....	3
Drains relaid.....	12
Miscellaneous defects.....	36

Factories and Workshops. Twenty-nine inspections were made during the year. Four cases of insufficient cleanliness were remedied. No written notices were served.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply. 66 samples of milk were submitted to the County Council for examination by the methylene-blue test, of which 50 were good, 10 moderate, 6 bad.

Meat and other foods. No private slaughtering was carried out in the district during the year, as all animals for human food are now killed in the centralised abattoirs of the Ministry of Food.

All food preparing premises were inspected, and cleansing and whitewashing was carried out as required. There are 21 bakehouses, 2 fried fish-shops, and 10 butchers premises in use in the area.

SECTION D. Housing.

Only one house was erected during the year.

Houses condemned were renovated for evacuees in the following villages:-

Braybrooke.....	1
Broughton.....	3
Cottingham.....	1
Geddington.....	1
Pytchley.....	2
Weldon.....	3

SECTION F. Infectious Diseases.

Infectious diseases were as follows:-

Paratyphoid.....	12
Scarlet Fever.....	23
Diphtheria.....	2
Pneumonia.....	6
Measles.....	146
Whooping Cough.....	12
Erysipelas.....	1
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever..	2

A paratyphoid outbreak took place in the District during the summer. The cause was traced and energetic measures were taken to control it. Eleven cases were removed to hospital. There were no deaths.

Fifteen cases of scarlet fever and both cases of diphtheria patients were removed to hospital. There were no deaths. The two cases of cerebro-spinal fever were removed to hospital, and one died.

There was one death of acute primary pneumonia.

Tuberculosis.

Nine cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, seven males and two females, and one male and two female non-pulmonary cases were notified during the year. There were three males and one female died from pulmonary tuberculosis. One female died from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

The following figures show the number of cases of tuberculosis on the register at the end of 1940:-

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	29	22	51
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.	5	14	19
			70

RECEPTION OF EVACUEES.

The following table shows the number of evacuated persons billeted in the area under the Government Evacuation Scheme:-

	Unaccompanied children.	Mothers and children.	Teachers, Helpers & Other adults.
January, 1940.	433	50	36
December, 1940.	538	212	34

During the year 268 unaccompanied children arrived in the district in L.C.C. school parties, and 558 mothers, children and adults were billeted by private arrangement.

The number of evacuated persons received and billeted in the district up to the 31st December, 1940, is 1,958.

A number of cases of scabies and impetigo have occurred amongst evacuated persons, and where satisfactory treatment in the billet has not been possible, the cases have been removed either to the County Council Institutions at Kettering and Oundle or to the Ministry of Health Hostel at Market Harborough.

There were a number of problems associated with the billeting of unaccompanied children, such as vermin infestation, bed-wetting and behaviour abnormality, and arrangements were made for the removal of particularly difficult cases to one of the County Hostels either at Burton Latimer, Rushden or Northampton.